PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

(11)Publication number:

07-105580

(43) Date of publication of application: 21.04.1995

(51)Int.Cl.

G11B 9/04 H01F 10/08

(21)Application number: 05-250300

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(22) Date of filing:

06.10.1993

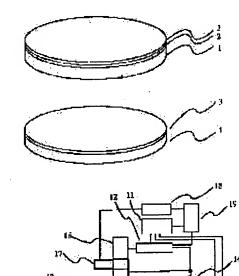
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(54) INFORMATION RECORDER

(57) Abstract:

PURPOSE: To record information by a scanning tunnel microscope by using the difference in conductivity between an amorphous layer and crystalline phase of Ag-In-Sb-Te material, etc., and using the stability in transformation between them for a recording medium. CONSTITUTION: The recording layer 3 is in a crystalline phase in the initial state. The probe 10 of a scanning tunnel microscope is brought near the medium while specified bias voltage (a) is applied between the probe and the medium by a power source 15. The position of the probe 10 is controlled with a servo circuit 12 to obtain a specified tunnel current (b). Voltage (c) larger than the voltage (a) is applied for a period (d) by a recording signal generating circuit 11. The medium is locally



heated higher than temp. (f) by a power source (e) flowing current (b) or more. When the local area 4 is cooled, information is recorded as '1' in an amorphous area and as '0' in a crystalline area. When the record is to be erased, the probe 10 is moved to above the local area 4 with a scanning circuit 18, and specified voltage (g) is applied for a period (h) to heat the area at lower temp. than the melting point with a tunnel current (i) to change the area into a crystalline phase. An electrode layer 2 made of Mo which prevents deterioration of the recording layer 3 due to heating.

LEGAL STATUS

[Date of request for examination]

[Date of sending the examiner's decision of rejection]

[Kind of final disposal of application other than the examiner's decision of rejection or application converted registration]

[Date of final disposal for application]

[Patent number]

[Date of registration]

[Number of appeal against examiner's decision of rejection]

[Date of requesting appeal against examiner's decision of rejection]

[Date of extinction of right]

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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] The information recording device characterized by to use what formed the aforementioned phase-change record thin film at the record medium on the cascade screen of a conductive thin film and a phase-change record thin film, or the conductive substrate in the information recording device using the tunnel current which flows between the aforementioned probe electrode and the aforementioned sample by bringing a probe electrode close to a sample, or the probe microscope which observes the conductivity of a sample, a configuration, etc. according to the force between atoms in_which of it is added between the aforementioned probe electrode and the aforementioned sample.

[Claim 2] The information recording device in which the aforementioned phase-change record thin film contains an indium and/or germanium, antimony, and a tellurium below 40 atom % in a claim 1, including a transition-metals element more than 3 atom %.

[Claim 3] The information recording device which the aforementioned conductive thin film and the aforementioned conductive substrate become from the alloy containing a refractory metal or the aforementioned refractory metals, such as molybdenum, a tungsten, a tantalum, a rhenium, and a niobium, in a claim 1.

[Claim 4] The information recording device whose transition-metals element contained in the aforementioned phase-change record film in a claim 2 is at least 1 person of chromium, cobalt, nickel, iron, silver, and the copper.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Industrial Application] this invention relates to the equipment which records mass information. [0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] The magnetic disk, the optical disk, etc. are put in practical use in the conventional nonvolatile information recording device. In recent years, completely different research of the information recording device using the probe microscope which makes a scanning tunneling microscope the start as an information recording method from these information recording devices is advanced.

[0003] The information recording device using the scanning tunneling microscope is shown in JP,1-53363,A, for example. Especially in this invention, what carried out the laminating of the molecule which has simulataneously the group which has (1) textile-glass-yarn amorphous semiconductor, (2) tetrapod quinodimethan (TCNQ) and a TCNQ derivative, (3) amorphous silicons, and (4) pie electronic level as a record medium, and the group which has only alpha electronic level on the electrode is mentioned. In the recording device using the record medium with such an electric memory effect, the possible recording method is theoretically proposed for informational rewriting recently. In JP,4-315837,A, the rewritable information recording device which used for example, the germanium antimony tellurium alloy for the record medium is described. By this invention, by passing a tunnel current to a medium, partial heating of a record medium is performed, in the process to cool, the phase change from a crystal phase to an amorphous phase is performed from an amorphous phase to a crystal phase again, and the method which records information is shown.

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] The phase change between the above-mentioned amorphous phase and a crystal phase is performed by carrying out partial heating of the record medium. It is liquefied temporarily [a medium] and locally in the process. By repeating record of the information by the phase change of such a medium, and elimination, and performing them, a medium flows gradually, the thin portion of thickness can do it, and the function of a phase change is lost by information rewriting operation which is about about 1000 times.

[0005]

[Means for Solving the Problem] In this invention, the thing which carried out the laminating of a phase-change record thin film and the conductive thin film to the information record medium, or the thing in which the phase-change record thin film was formed on the conductive substrate was used in the information recording device which used the probe microscope.

[0006] The material containing at least one of an indium (In) and the germanium (germanium), and antimony (Sb) and a tellurium (Te) was used for the aforementioned phase-change record thin film, including a transition-metals element.

[0007] The alloy which contains a refractory metal or a refractory metal in the aforementioned conductive thin film or a conductive substrate was used.

[0008] The transition-metals element contained in the aforementioned phase-change record thin film was made into at least one of chromium (Cr), cobalt (Co), nickel (nickel), iron (Fe), silver (Ag), and copper (Cu).

[0009]

[Function] According to this invention, the conductivity of a record medium can be raised by using for an information record medium the thing in which the record layer was formed on the cascade screen of a record layer and a conductive layer, or the conductive substrate.

[0010] By using the alloy which contains a refractory metal or a refractory metal in a conductive layer and a conductive substrate, diffusion of the atom between record layer conductive layers by medium heating at the time of elimination can be prevented at the time of informational record.

[0011] A record layer has two stable states, a crystal phase and an amorphous phase, in a record layer by using the material containing In and/or germanium, and Sb and Te.

[0012] When a record layer contains transition metals, the crystal of the transition-metals telluride of a high-melting point or a transition-metals stibide is partially formed in a record layer. This crystal can protect a flow of the record layer at the time of elimination at the time of informational record.

[Example] The example of a record medium is shown in drawing 1. Drawing 1 (a) uses the oxide glass substrate of the shape for example, of a disk for a substrate 1, forms a molybdenum thin film by the sputtering method as an electrode layer 2 on a substrate, and forms for example, a Ag-In-Sb-Te thin film by the sputtering method as a phase-change record layer 3 on the electrode layer 2. After the target used for sputtering for formation of the record layer 3 mixes and fuses Ag, In, Sb, and Te element by predetermined composition, respectively, the target which used as powder and was sintered is used for it. Drawing 1 (b) uses the substrate made from molybdenum for a substrate 1, and forms for example, a Ag-In-Sb-Te thin film by the sputtering method as a phase-change record thin film 3 on a substrate 1. [0014] The recording method by the scanning tunneling microscope using the record medium shown in drawing 2 by drawing 1 (a) is shown. The record layer 3 in drawing is a crystal phase as an initialization state. The scanning tunneling microscope probe 10 is close brought on this record medium, predetermined bias voltage a is added by bias power supply 15 between probe-record media, and the position of a probe 10 is controlled by the servo circuit 12 so that this time predetermined tunnel-current b flows. Only the predetermined time d impresses the bigger predetermined voltage c than voltage a between probe-record media by the record signal generating circuit 11 in this state. At this time, between probe-record media, bigger tunnel-current e than tunnel-current b flows, and a record medium is locally heated by this tunnel-current e more than the predetermined temperature f. The heated portion is made amorphous in the process cooled, and informational record is performed [portion] in the portions of '1' and a crystal phase, using as '0' the portion 4 made amorphous.

[0015] When eliminating record, a probe 10 is moved by the scanning circuit 18 onto the portion 4 by which it was made amorphous in the record layer 3, and only the predetermined time h impresses the predetermined voltage g between probe-media. By tunnel-current i which flows by this voltage impression, a medium is heated to the grade which is not given to the melting point. The heated portion becomes a crystal phase. Moreover, the electrode layer 2 is also heated in heating of the record layer at the time of this record and elimination. Since the electrode layer 2 is formed with the molybdenum of a refractory metal, it can suppress degradation of the record layer 3 by mixture of the atom between the record layer 3 and the electrode layer 2 in heating by the tunnel current by impression of the voltage c and g of a between [a probe-medium].

[0016] It is also possible to make most thin films for record into the amorphous state contrary to the above, to make it crystallize partially, and to record on the other hand.

[0017] Between the current to crystallize and the current made amorphous, according to an information signal, current can be changed and information can also be rewritten by carrying out overwrite, without eliminating.

[0018] Read-out of record is performed by detecting the difference in the conductivity between an amorphous phase and a crystal phase by change of a tunnel current.

[0019] Record with the content of Ag good in the range of three atom % to 40 atom % and the elimination property were acquired. When there was too much Ag, it disappeared and the remainder increased, when too few, it read by recurrence rewriting and the SN ratio of a signal fell. When the content of Ag was below 40 atom % more than 15 atom %, the still better property was acquired. [0020] As for the content of Te, the good property was acquired in the range below 55 atom % more than 30 atom %. Amorphous-izing was difficult, when it disappeared when there was too much Te, and it was easy to produce the remainder and was too few.

[0021] It is desirable that the range of the ratio of the content is 1:1 to 1:4, and remaining In and remaining Sb are 1:1.5. It is still more desirable if it is the range of a shell 1:3. It will disappear, if it separates from these ranges, and the remainder increases.

[0022] The same result is obtained, even if it replaces a part or all of In of a Ag-In-Sb-Te thin film by germanium and at least 1 element replaces a part or all of Ag among Cr, Co, nickel, Fe, and Cu. [0023] In addition, although a phase-change record layer contains elements other than the above small quantity (usually below 10 atom %), since there are few bad influences to many properties, they do not interfere.

[0024] a record layer top -- a semiconductor with the melting point higher than record layers, such as silicon and germanium, -- 70 atom % or more than 70 mol % -- when the included protective layer was formed, the rewritable number of times increased further The thickness of this layer had the remarkable effect at 5nm or more 200nm or less, and its regenerative signal was also good.

[Effect of the Invention] According to this invention, the stability in the difference in the conductivity between amorphous layers, such as Ag-In-Sb-Te system material, and a crystal phase and conversion between both can be used, it can use for a record medium, and the information recording device in which high density rewriting is possible can be offered by performing information record by the scanning tunneling microscope.

[Translation done.]

(19)日本国特許庁 (JP)

(12) 公開特許公報(A)

ΡI

(11)特許出顧公開番号

特開平7-105580

(43)公開日 平成7年(1995)4月21日

(51) Int.CL*

織別配号

庁内整理部号 9075-5D 技術表示箇所

G11B 9/04

H01F 10/08

審査請求 未請求 請求項の数4 OL (全 4 頁)

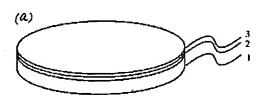
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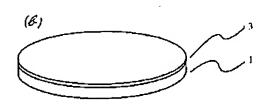
(54)【発明の名称】 情報記録装置

(57)【要約】

【構成】情報記録に用いる記録媒体の、記録層にAg-In-Sb-Te等の四元系材料を用い、同記録層を高融点電極層上に設ける。また同記録媒体を走査型トンネル顕微鏡探針、記録媒体間を流れるトンネル電流による加熱により局所的に相変化させ、情報の記録を行う。 【効果】1ビット当たりの記録径を数十ヵm程度とする情報記録装置が得られる。







【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】探針電極を試料に近づけることにより、前記探針電極と前記試料間を流れるトンネル電流もしくは、前記探針電極と前記試料間に加わる原子間力により試料の導電率、形状等を觀察するプローブ顕微鏡を用いた情報記録装置において、記録媒体に導電性薄膜と相変化記録薄膜との積層膜または、導電性基板上に前記相変化記録薄膜を形成したものを用いることを特徴とする情報記録装置。

【請求項2】請求項1において、前記租変化記録薄膜が 10 選移金属元素を3原子%以上40原子%以下含み、イン ジウムおよび/またはゲルマニウムとアンチモンとテル ルとを含む情報記録装置。

【請求項3】請求項1において、前記導電性薄膜および 前記導電性基板が、モリブデン、タングステン、タンタル、レニウム、ニオビウム等の高融点金属もしくは、前 記高融点金属を含む合金よりなる情報記録装置。

【請求項4】請求項2において、前記钼変化記録膜に含まれる選移金属元素が、クロム、コバルト、ニッケル、鉄、銀、銅の内の少なくとも一者である情報記録装置。 【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【産業上の利用分野】本発明は、大容量の情報を記録する装置に関する。

[0002]

【従来の技術】従来の不揮発性の情報記録装置では、遊気ディスク、光ディスク等が実用化されている。近年、これらの情報記録装置とは全く異なる。情報記録方式として、走査型トンネル顕微鏡を初めとするプロープ顕微鏡を用いた情報記録装置の研究が進められている。

【0003】走査型トンネル顕微鏡を用いた情報記録装 置については、例えば、特開平1-53363 号公報に示さ れている。この発明では、特に記録媒体として(1)ガ ラス系アモルファス半導体、(2)テトラキノジメタン (TCNQ) 及びTCNQ誘導体、(3) アモルファス シリコン、(4)パイ電子準位をもつ群とアルファ電子 **単位のみを有する群を併有する分子を電極上に積層した** ものを挙げている。このような電気メモリ効果をもつ記 録媒体を用いた記録装置において、最近、情報の書き換 えが原理的に可能な記録方式が提案されている。特開平 40 4-315837 号公報には、記録媒体に、例えば、ゲルマニ ウム・アンチモン・テルル合金を用いた、膏き換え可能 な情報記録装置について記述してある。この発明では、 媒体にトンネル電流を流すことにより記録媒体の局所加 熱を行い、冷却する過程で非晶質相から結晶相へ、また 結晶相から非晶質相への相変化を行い、 情報を記録する 方式が示されている。

[0004]

行う。その過程で媒体は一時的,局所的に液化される。 このような媒体の相変化による情報の記録,消去を繰返 し行うことにより、媒体は徐々に流動して膜厚の薄い部 分ができ、約千回程度の情報書き換え操作により相変化 の機能を失う。

[0005]

【課題を解決するための手段】本発明では、プローブ顕微鏡を用いた情報記録装置において、情報記録媒体に相変化記録薄膜と導高性薄膜を積層したもの、もしくは導高性基板上に钼変化記録薄膜を形成したものを用いた。【0006】前記相変化記録薄膜に遷移金属元素を含み、かつ、インジウム(In)とゲルマニウム(Ge)の内の少なくとも一方と、アンチモン(Sb)とテルル(Te)とを含有した材料を用いた。

【0007】前記導電性薄膜または導電性基板に高融点金属もしくは高融点金属を含む合金を用いた。

【() 0 0 8) 前記相変化記録薄膜に含まれる選移金屑元素をクロム(C r), コバルト(C o), ニッケル(N i)、鉄(F e),銀(Ag),銅(Cu)の内の少な20 くとも一つとした。

[0009]

【作用】本発明によれば、情報記録媒体に記録層と導電層の情層膜、もしくは導電性基板上に記録層を形成したものを用いることで、記録媒体の導電率を向上させることが出来る。

【0010】導電層および導電性基板に高融点金属もしくは高融点金属を含む合金を用いることにより、情報の記録時、消去時の媒体加熱による、記録層導電層間の原子の拡散を防ぐことが出来る。

(0011)記録層に、Inおよび/またはGeと、S bとTeとを含有した材料を用いることにより、記録層が、結晶相、非結晶相の二つの安定状態を持つ。

【0012】記録層が選移金属を含むことにより、記録 層内に高融点の運移金属テルル化物または選移金属アン チモン化物の結晶が部分的に形成される。この結晶により、情報の記録時、消去時における記録層の流動を防ぐ ことが出来る。

[0013]

【実施例】図1に記録媒体の例を示す。図1(a)は、基板1に、例えば、ディスク状の酸化物ガラス基板を用い、基板上に電極層2としてモリブデン薄膜をスパッタリング法により形成し、電極層2上に相変化記録層3として、例えば、Ag-In-Sb-Te薄膜をスパッタリング法により形成したものである。記録層3の形成のためのスパッタリングに用いるターグットは、Ag,In、Sb,Te元素をそれぞれ所定の組成で混ぜ合わせ溶融した後、粉末にして焼結したターゲットを用いる。図1(b)は、基板1に、例えば、モリブデン製の基板を用い、基板1上に钼変化記録薄膜3として、例えば、Ag-In-Sb-Te薄膜をスパッタリング法に

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より形成したものである。

【0014】図2に、図1(a)で示した記録媒体を用いた、走査型トンネル顕微鏡による記録方式を示す。図中の記録層3は、初期化状態として結晶相になっている。この記録媒体上に走査型トンネル顕微鏡探針10を近づけ、探針-記録媒体間に、バイアス電源15により所定のバイアス電圧aを加え、このとき所定のトンネル電流りが流れるようにサーボ回路12により探針10の位置を制御する。この状態で記録信号発生回路11により探針-記録媒体間に電圧aより大きな所定の電圧でを、所定の時間はだけ印加する。この時探針-記録媒体間に電圧aより大きな所定の電圧であ、所定の時間はだけ印加する。この時探針-記録媒体は、上ンネル電流り大きなトンネル電流をが流れ、記録媒体は、このトンネル電流をにより局所的に所定の温度1以上に加熱される。加熱された部分は、冷却される過程で非晶質化し、非晶質化された部分4を

'1', 結晶祖の部分を '0' として情報の記録が行われる。

【0015】記録の消去を行うときは、探針10を記録層3中の非晶質化された部分4の上に走査回路18により移動し、探針-媒体間に所定の電圧8を所定の時間 h だけ印加する。この電圧印加により流れるトンネル電流により、媒体を融点には達しない程度に加熱する。加熱された部分は、結晶相になる。また、この記録時および消去時の記録層の加熱において電極層2も加熱される。電極層2は、高融点金属のモリブデンにより形成されているため、探針-媒体間への電圧で、8の印加によるトンネル電流による加熱において、記録層3、電極層2間の原子の混合による記録層3の劣化を抑えることができる。

【0016】一方、上記とは逆に、記録用薄膜の大部分 30 を非晶質状態としておき、部分的に結晶化させて記録するととも可能である。

[0017] 結晶化する電流と非晶腎化する電流の間で 情報信号に従って電流を変化させ、消去せずに重ね音き することによって情報を書き換えることもできる。

【0018】記録の読み出しは、非晶質相、結晶相間の 導電率の追いをトンネル電流の変化により検出すること により行う。

【0019】Agの含有量は、3原子%から40原子%

の範囲で良好な記録、消去特性が得られた。A8が多す ぎる場合は、消え残りが多くなり、少なすぎる場合は、 繰返し合き換えにより読み出し信号のSN比が低下し た。A8の含有量が15原子%以上40原子%以下であ ればさらに良好な特性が得られた。

【0020】Teの含有量は、30原子%以上55原子%以下の範囲で良好な特性が得られた。Teが多すぎると消え残りが生じやすく、少なすぎると非晶質化が困難であった。

(0021)残りのInとShは、その含有量の比が、 1:1から1:4の範囲であるのが好ましく、1:1. 5から1:3の範囲であればさらに好ましい。これらの範囲から外れると消え残りが多くなる。

【0022】AgーIn-Sh-Te薄腹のInの一部または全部をGeに置換し、Agの一部または全部をCr、Co,Ni、FeおよびCuのうち少なくとも一元素で置換しても同様な結果が得られる。

【0023】なお、相変化記録層が、上記以外の元素を 少量(通常は10原子%以下)含んでも諸特性への悪影 響は少ないので差し支えない。

【0024】記録層上に珪素、Geなどの、記録層より融点が高い半導体を70原子%または70モル%以上含む保護層を形成すると、さらに膏き換え可能回数が増した。この層の膜厚は、5nm以上200nm以下で効果が顕著であり、再生信号も良好であった。

[0025]

【発明の効果】本発明によれば、Ag-In-Sb-Te系材料等の非晶質層,結晶相間の導電率の追い。かつ 両者間の変換における安定性を利用し記録媒体に用い、走査型トンネル顕微鏡により情報記録を行うことで高密度書換え可能な情報記録装置を提供することができる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】記録媒体の構成を示す斜視図。

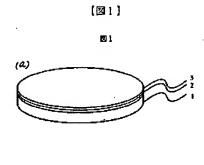
【図2】走査型トンネル顕微鏡を利用した情報記録装置のブロック図。

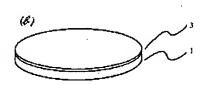
【符号の説明】

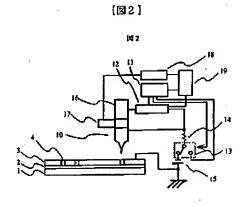
1…基板、2…電極層、3…記錄層。

(4)

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